

*Jersey Journal 1/14/30*  
**New Hoboken Post Office  
Is Assured By Federal Bill**

**\$250,000 Structure Planned for Mile-Square  
City—7 Other Federal Building Projects  
in State Included in Bill.**

**Report's View of  
State Dry Work  
Held Significant**

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ties of the Jones "five and ten" act inapplicable to minor offenders.

Vanished is the hope of the ultra dries that the administration could be induced to support a plan that would make the buyer of liquor equally culpable with the seller. No hint of such a thing appears in the commission's report or in the President's message. Persons conversant with the situation here know that Mr. Hoover would as soon think of picking up a red-hot poker in his bare hands as to sponsor such a project.

**Congestion Makes Useless  
Larger Appropriations**

Disappointing, too, to those who have been looking forward to a mighty prohibition drive by the Federal government is the fact that only substantially the same appropriation as this year is sought by the prohibition unit. Congress would give it many multiples of the \$15,000,000 a year it uses, if the Treasury would only ask for it. Mr. Mellon will not proffer such a request, however, and neither will Attorney General Mitchell when the unit is turned over to the Department of Justice.

The reason for this is the court congestion which piles up untried cases. There is no use, as Commissioner of Prohibition Doran sees it, in spending more millions and arresting thousands of additional offenders a year, when there is no chance of bringing them to trial. To give the unit more money now would be to bestow on it real embarrassment of riches.

Congress is ready to start work on the recommendations of the President and his commission. That does not mean it is ready, or can be persuaded, to touch before the November election those recommendations that are highly controversial.

**Measures Facing Delay.**

It is easily possible that this session will see the prohibition unit transferred from the Treasury to the Department of Justice; that a start will be made upon the codification of the more than twenty-five liquor laws passed within the last forty years, and that a more effective padlock law will be enacted.

What need not be looked for before election is any adoption of policy restricting the field of national operation in prohibition enforcement. Neither is there reason to suppose the Jones law will be so modified before then as to permit United States commissioners to try minor cases without indictment by a Federal Grand Jury.

The dries in Congress desire to be elected without having to explain about a relaxing of the grip of the Federal government if, in fact, they ever consent to it. The plan to use the United States commissioners, who now are, but committing magistrates, for the actual trial of petty cases may involve the constitutional question of abrogation of a part of the bill of rights. It is in for hard sledding in Congress, which almost certainly will not adopt it in a Congressional election year.

**Workability Left Open.**

The commission admits that it has only scratched the surface of the prohibition problem in its seven months of study. From what it said and from what the President said in his message, it is evident the administration idea is that actually to work out a reasonable solution will take at least another year, and perhaps more.

In fact the commission seemed to leave still wide open the question of the workability of the Volstead act, even with most repressive measures for its enforcement. It attached great weight to the ideas and temperament of the people in various sections. It is too much to say that the commission questioned the propriety of trying by statute to change the customs of a people which, in their minds, involved no moral issue. It did, however, clearly indicate that it had not lost sight of this thought.

R. R. L.

WASHINGTON. (AP)—Provision of funds for the government post office building at Hoboken is made in the Treasury appropriation bill reported to the House by the House appropriations committee today, this project being covered by a blanket appropriation of \$23,000,000 for Federal structures.

Although no definite sum is specified for any of the projects in the bill, the total is understood to be ample to take full care of all the requirements, and no delay in Hoboken is to be anticipated because of lack of funds.

Under the law of March 4, 1929, the Hoboken project was placed at a maximum of \$250,000 and \$50,000 was appropriated.

Very fortunate for Hoboken, no trouble developed over the site, as the acquisition of properties for new buildings or extensions invariably proves a stumbling block and impedes progress greatly. As acting supervising architect James A. Wetmore, of the treasury, said:

"The work has to be carried on by

the United States attorneys, and their dockets are so filled with prohibition cases and other cases that they can only give attention to this work when the court work does not require their attention. The time runs all the way from 90 days to a year and sometimes to a year and a half, before we get the titles.

"Some time is consumed in getting the abstract. Some of these cases are so involved that it requires some time before the United States attorney is in a position where he can file his petition. Under the law the Attorney General is required to commence proceedings within 90 days after request is made of him by the Treasury Department. It is not an unusual thing for us to have to renew those requests. Sometimes that is done for a period as much as 6 months before the proceedings are commenced."

Federal building construction will be stimulated this year by the administration, which has made all public

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